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The Brilliant Military  
record of Major-General  
Hawley.





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## THE BRILLIANT MILITARY RECORD OF MAJ. GENERAL HAWLEY.

**His Gallantry at Bull Run, Pulaski, Secessionville, Pocataligo, Morris Island, Olustee, Drewry's Bluff, Deep Run, Petersburg and Darbytown Road.**

LETTERS FROM GENERALS TYLER, HUNTER, TURNER, SEYMOUR, PLAISTED, VORIS, HENRY, FOSTER AND TERRY, AND COLONEL HALPINE; WITH OPINIONS OF GENERALS KEYES, STEVENS, STANNARD, GILLMORE, BIRNEY AND BUTLER.

It may seem unnecessary to call attention at this day to the war record of General JOE HAWLEY; but as the presses which persistently vilified him and his army comrades at every step in the progress of the war see fit to still traduce his character as a soldier, there is manifest propriety in meeting squarely the issue thus renewedly presented. The Hartford Times flatly asserts that General Hawley "got promotion and good position through the influence of personal friends," and further, that "few officers and none of the soldiers had so good a time as he, or easier places all through the war."

Now, what are the facts in this case? On the President's first call for troops, Joseph R. Hawley, without military experience or aspirations, volunteered to enter the government service as a soldier, drawing up the enlistment paper in the presence of a few friends and affixing his own name to it as the first. In twenty-four hours a company was formed, and he chosen one of its lieutenants. On the advancement of his captain to the colonelcy, Hawley was promoted to the captaincy. In that position, he had no "easier places" during the three months' campaign than other line officers in active duty. At the battle of Bull Run the only "good position" he sought was that of doing with his company the skirmishing on the way to the field. In the fight his conduct was such as to secure his commendatory mention in the report of General Keyes—a West Point officer; and while returning from the field his coolness and courage were so marked, in the

general panic, as to excite the special attention of correspondents who were personally unacquainted with him.

When the brigade was ordered, after the battle, towards Georgetown, with an order to leave two men from each company on guard at the Falls Church camp, Captain H. counted himself as one of the two from his command, although that was his third night without sleep, and he stood all night on guard in a pelting storm, only to save some poor private from the unwelcome task. Thus it was that he got a "good position" and had a "good time" and "easy places" in the first campaign of the war. What wonder that General Dan. Tyler, his earliest brigade commander, (like General Keyes, a West Point soldier,) writes of him thus enthusiastically:

"I have known Major General Hawley from the first day he entered the military service of his State and country, both in the camp and in the field, and a truer, braver soldier cannot be found among the millions who came forward to the rescue of the Union, nor one more worthy the consideration of his friends and the confidence of his State. What a fit recompense for his faithful, gallant services would it be for good old Connecticut to give him the highest honor she could confer, by electing him her Chief Magistrate. For the honor and welfare of the State, knowing General Hawley, as I do, to be for the Union now and forever, I hope she will do so. So far as the thousands of gallant men are concerned, who with General Hawley upheld the honor of the State and assisted in crushing out the rebellion, you may rest assured they will rally round the flag, and vote for the brave soldier, who was their friend in the camp and their leader in the field."

Captain Hawley took but a week of rest after his first muster-out before again commencing to raise a company. He could have had a colonelcy; but he was too modest to accept it. At Colonel Terry's request, he went out with the 7th C.

V. as second in command, and shared all the privations and dangers of the Port Royal expedition. During the siege of Fort Pulaski he was brought to the verge of the grave by sickness resulting from exposure, yet he managed to be on duty when the fire opened, and was in command as "field officer of the trenches" on the morning of the fight, being at the batteries every moment for thirty hours—until the fort surrendered. To the 7th C. V. was given the honor of occupying the fort, and on Colonel Terry's promotion the command devolved on Hawley. The new position was likely to prove a desirable one for ease-loving officers, but Colonel H. earnestly entreated for himself and his regiment a share in the movement against Charleston, and thus came to have a part in the bloody fight at Secessionville, where his conduct in battle won the hearty commendation of yet another West Pointer, General Stevens, his division commander. Again Colonel H. was with his regiment in the hotly contested battle of Pocotaligo; and there it was noted that while in the shifting scenes of the fight he several times ordered his men to lie down for cover, he never once sought shelter or lay down himself, although he might properly have done so.

In the interval of more active operations in the department, Colonel H. was requested by his commander to go to Florida in the discharge of a trust requiring administrative ability, discretion, firmness and integrity. His officers uniting in the request that he would accept the position, he was in command first at Fernandina and then at St. Augustine. Of his discharge of the duty thus assigned him, Major General Hunter has said:

"I was in need of a talented officer to command in the district of Florida. General Hawley was selected for that purpose, and I never had reason a moment to regret my choice. He always performed the various and most important duties of his trust with great gallantry and ability, and to my entire satisfaction. My only regret, when thinking of General Hawley, was, that we had not many more like him."

While in Florida, four companies were detached from his regiment, and this battalion, under Lieutenant Colonel Rodman, distinguished itself in the landing on Morris Island and the first assault on Fort Wagner, in Gillmore's move against Charleston. No sooner did Colonel Hawley hear of a renewal of active operations, than he sent, by first steamer, a request for himself and his command to be permitted to join the remnant of Rodman's battalion, and at the same time wrote to "personal friends" to intercede in his behalf in this request. His desire was granted, and he was assigned to a laborious and honorable share in the protracted and exhausting siege. As "field officer of the trenches," he was in charge at the opening of the first two days bombardment of Wagner, having general super-

vision at the extreme front, under the hottest fire. For a time he commanded the brigade of the brave General Stevenson, and again he was with his regiment preparing for an assault on Sumter, the command lying bivouacked on Folly Island for a fortnight in daily anticipation of the order for an attack.

Colonel H. might have retained the "good position" at Fort Pulaski, but he chose instead the bloody fields of James Island and Pocotaligo. He could have continued in the "easy place" at St. Augustine, but he preferred to that the discomforts and dangers of the wilderness of sand and fire, on Morris Island, in the terrible summer of 1863.

Colonel C. G. Halpine, ("Private Miles O'Reilly,") assistant adjutant general, on the staff of both Generals Hunter and Gillmore, and who is himself a Democrat, writes as follows of General Hawley, as he knew him in the department of the South:

"Colonel Joseph R. Hawley's reputation for prudence, good discipline and courage was such that his regiment was made prominent in all matters requiring the especial display of those qualities; and the only 'easy position' I ever knew him to hold, was when he was sent to occupy Fernandina and command Florida, as a check to certain dishonest transactions and wholesale pillages in which some civilian appointees of the United States government, and some civil and religious followers of General Rufus Saxton, the military governor of the black population in the department, were found to have been engaged. This duty, a very important and perplexing one, Colonel Hawley faithfully discharged, his reports leading to the recovery of much pillaged property already shipped for the North, and to the discontinuance of such practices in the future—at least so long as I remained assistant adjutant general and chief of staff of that department."

Major General Turner, an officer of the regular army, who was General Gillmore's chief of staff, and who now commands in the city of Richmond, adds:

"I have been more or less intimately associated with him [General H.] since June 1863; was side by side with him during the memorable operations upon Morris Island, S. C., against Fort Sumter and Wagner, and in the long and arduous campaign of 1864 in Virginia. No soldier has a brighter record or one more to be proud of than General Joseph R. Hawley.

"The idea that General Hawley had a 'good time' in 'easy places' all through the war, procuring promotion only by personal influence, is to me and all of us who have seen him so often in the front of battle, idle and ridiculous. The old 10th corps will repel with indignation any such vile aspersion of one of their most gallant and worthy officers."

When General Seymour prepared for his Florida campaign he selected as his brigade commanders, Colonel Hawley, Colonel Jack Montgomery, of Kansas fame, and Colonel Barton, of the 48th New York. At the battle of Olustee,

Colonel Hawley's brigade commenced the fight, and the 7th C. V. under his guidance was the last regiment out. He was in the battle for three and a half hours, never once dismounting from his horse, although greatly increasing his danger by being thus conspicuous, while his men were lying down fighting with their breech-loading rifles. The enthusiastic cheers he received from his men while rallying his regiment from the prolonged skirmish line in the centre of the field, showed how heartily his gallantry was appreciated by those who fought under him. Of about 4700 actually engaged in that battle, over 1800 were killed or wounded, Colonel H.'s brigade losing its full share, or over 33 per cent. The brave General Seymour, distinguished officer of the regular army as he is, writes to a friend under recent date:

"I hardly need assure you that I was highly pleased to learn that General Hawley may be Governor of Connecticut. For it would appear that the good time is at hand when

'Man obtains that which he merits,  
Or any merits that which he obtains.'

"My first acquaintance with General Hawley (then Colonel) was in the department of the South, where I found his reputation as an administrator and a commander second to none of his grade. My own knowledge of his excellence not only confirmed this reputation, but induced me to urge that he might be placed in command of a brigade during the expedition to Florida, the event and results of which greatly increased the respect and esteem I had previously entertained for him. The conduct of Colonel Hawley at Olustee, under the most trying and critical circumstances, was so satisfactory to me that I sent to him, and this without outside suggestion or solicitation, a recommendation for promotion, that I believed him richly to deserve, and that he has subsequently honored,

"Aside from this official connection with General H. I have had but little personal acquaintance with him. So far as my knowledge goes he never sought any immunity, directly or indirectly, from the severest duties of a soldier; while in every position assigned him the discharge of his duties was such as to increase his good repute with his commanders. Connecticut will do her elf honor by electing such a man as her governor."

The recommendation of General Seymour was warmly approved by General Gillmore, and was urged upon the authorities at Washington solely on the ground of Colonel Hawley's special gallantry and military services. Yet the promotion was still delayed. And it was thus that Colonel H. continued to have "so good a time" in "easy places," in the department of the South!

In April, 1863, Colonel Hawley came to Virginia with his regiment and was assigned to the command of a brigade in Terry's division of the Tenth Corps, in the Army of the James. In the battle of Drewry's Bluff, he lost between 400 and 500 men, and his conspicuous gallantry in the

three days of that fight called forth warm praise from his commanders, General Stannard of Vermont—a brave officer, who subsequently lost an arm at Chaffin's Farm—complimenting him on the field for his marked coolness and courage. The campaign before Richmond and Petersburg was an almost unintermitted series of battles and skirmishes, from May to November—unequaled before in the world's history—and of all the hard service Colonel H. had fully his share. At Deep Run, in August, he lost twenty per cent of his command, and for his conduct there, Major General Birney, his corps commander, requested Gen. Terry to forward a recommendation for his promotion, which being approved by Generals Birney and Butler, in addition to others previously forwarded, secured his commission as brigadier general, in September, 1864. At the Darbytown road, on Oct. 13th, General H. was again distinguished for bravery in a desperate fight; and Oct. 27th, near the same position, he commanded a division during the battle.

Such was his "good time" in "easy places" in Virginia. When appointed a delegate to the National Convention, he would not leave to attend it, although Baltimore was distant but fifteen to eighteen hours from the extreme front. Only once in all the war did even sickness keep him out of a fight in which his command had a part, and that was the brief engagement at Chester Hill.

General Plaisted, of Maine, commander of another fighting brigade in Terry's division, writing of the Virginia campaign, says:

"If Butler's army was 'bottled up' a little while at Bermuda, it was not a whit behind any other portion of the army in respect to the hard fighting it had to do. We were kept 'hammering away' at the enemy from the 7th of May to the 29th of October, inclusive, in which time my brigade was engaged with the enemy, and had men killed and wounded on fifty-nine different days—its losses amounting in the aggregate to 1375 out of 2693. Hawley's brigade, side by side with mine, had just about as soft a chance as that. It was often remarked in the army that 'Terry spared not Hawley's brigade' any more than any other of his brigades. The long list of its casualties will, in my opinion, sadly but gloriously attest that fact. Fighting side by side with General Hawley, I saw a great deal of him in action. We were near each other at Drewry's Bluff, and every day there saw him under fire with his command, right at his post. At Deep Run I saw him make perhaps the most desperate charge of that bloody day, with three regiments of his brigade. Having carried the left of the enemy's intrenched line, Hawley's brigade, with Voris', swung round and charged down the rebel line in order to roll up the enemy's right which still held fast to the works. The charge failed because of a deep ravine which enabled the enemy to form a new line with an overwhelming force, Hawley drove the enemy out of that ravine but

could not pass it. His brigade must have suffered terribly in the charge. An officer of the 7th Conn. told me that five officers—one of them Colonel H.—shook hands together in that ravine and bade each other good bye, and that he and Colonel H., alone of the five, came out alive! Again, Oct. 13th, Hawley and I were side by side. For ten hours of that day we were exposed to shot, shell and musketry, as trying as any circumstances my men were in during the war. We could do nothing but lie still and take it! The moment we had driven the enemy into his main works, General Hawley rode up to the division commander and said: "General, we have driven the enemy into his main line. Shall I charge him out?" How much better it would have been to have charged *then* than to wait till afternoon when the enemy was fully prepared! Major Camp might have been living now, perhaps, and many a brave boy of the 10th Conn. who went down in the final assault."

Major General Voris, of Ohio, referred to as commanding a brigade at Deep Run, writes:

"I knew General Hawley when he was a Colonel and had the 'easy' command of a brigade in the pestilential climate of South Carolina, and on the Bermuda Hundred and Petersburg fronts, when the stoutest hearts yielded to the awful pressure that weighed down all of every grade in the army. I knew him to be a zealous, able, heroic, faithful and industrious officer, who shared his full measure of the hardships and dangers of the war."

General Guy V. Henry, of the regular army, says:

"I have known of General Hawley for three years and was with him in South Carolina, Florida and Virginia. He bore then the reputation of being a good soldier. As to his having been in 'easy places' all through the war, I can hardly agree with you. In fact, as I happened to be in some of them, and think that 'easier places' might be found by a not very diligent search."

Major General B. S. Foster, of Indiana, who succeeded to the command of Terry's division, and fought his troops so desperately in the final charge at Petersburg as to win for them special praise in General Grant's great report of the war, and who struck the last blow at Lee at Appomattox Court House, declares:

"No man bore a more conspicuous part, nor was any one more frequently in positions of danger than General Hawley. Any one familiar with the campaigns of South Carolina, and in Florida, as well as in front of Richmond and around Petersburg, can testify to General Hawley's services. Under circumstances and in places that tried men's courage, we always found him firm, cool, and at his post, ready to lead a forlorn hope or an assault on the enemy's works."

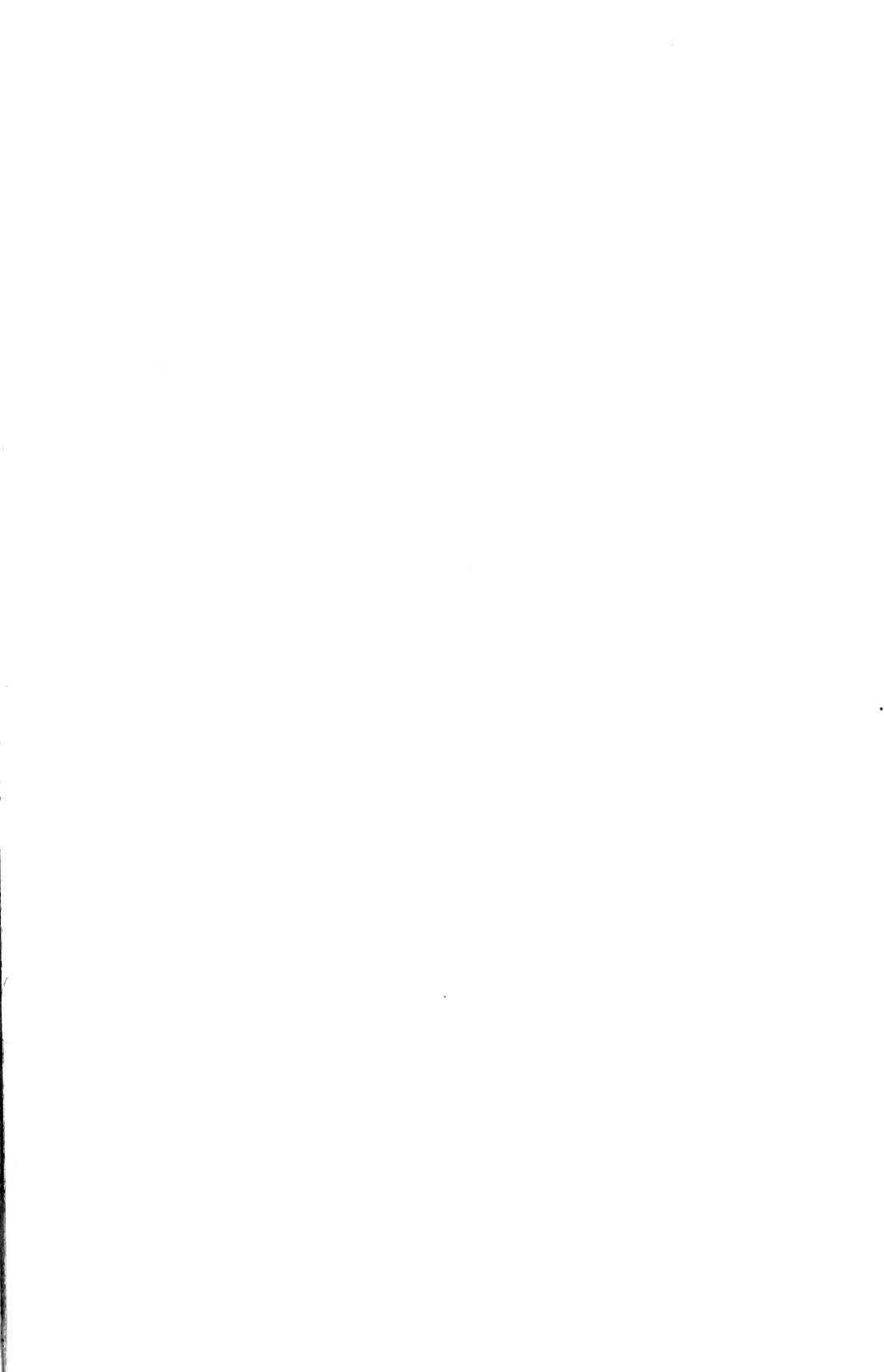
Major General Terry, a son of Connecticut, whom his State delights to honor, says further of General Hawley:

"Long before his promotion, it was the general sentiment of the officers of the 10th army corps that great injustice was done by not promoting him; and such was the estimation in which his qualities as a soldier and his services were held, that the brigades of the corps were arranged with special reference to giving him the command of a general officer though he could not have the rank of one. No officer had fewer leaves of absence or remained more constantly on duty than he. I doubt very much whether any portion of the army suffered greater hardships than the troops engaged in the operations on Tybee and Morris Island, and in the Virginia campaigns of 1864. One thing is certain, that no officer in his position ever thought less of his own comfort or more cheerfully shared in the hardships which his men endured. So firmly established is his reputation, at least in the army, that it seems entirely superfluous to speak of his ability. Entering the service with little or no military knowledge, he soon showed that he possessed in a high degree all the qualities which go to make up the soldier and commander; and these qualities developed by careful study and experience made him one of the most valuable officers of his rank which the war has produced. Exact and untiring in the performance of his duties, of great practical judgment in the management of his troops, and of the highest courage, no officer in the army more fully enjoyed the respect, confidence and esteem both of his superiors and of his officers and men, than he."

When General Terry went to Fort Fisher, he left General Hawley in command of his division, as the fittest man for that important position. Later, after Gen. H. joined his brigade at Wilmington, Gen. Scofield assigned to him the duty of keeping open his lines of communication, as he moved up to join Sherman. At Wilmington and Richmond after hostilities had ceased, General H. performed in an administrative capacity, perhaps as arduous and important duties as at any time during his four and a half years in the army.

The truth of the matter is, the *Times* and its party hate General Hawley because he was a soldier and fought so efficiently for the government during the war. Had he been dismissed from service or forced to resign on account of disloyalty or general worthlessness, he would not have been so obnoxious to the *Times* and its followers, even with his present politics. It is for the harm he did to their Southern brethren in arms that he is opposed and vilified by Connecticut copperheads. And it is because of that service and of the spirit he displayed in it—because of what he did as a soldier and what he was and is as a patriot, that the soldiers and those who love the soldiers, in Connecticut, sustain him in this canvass and will vote for him at the coming election.









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